

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, Claims 1 to 22 have been cancelled and new Claims 23 to 45 have been added. The application now includes Claims 23 to 45 with Claims 23, 31 and 39 being the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration, in view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

New method Claim 23 defines the invention as a method for producing a vehicle brake assembly comprising the steps of: providing a drum brake shoe assembly having a pair of brake shoes, the drum brake shoe assembly part of a drum-in-hat parking and emergency brake of a drum-in-hat disc brake assembly; providing a backing plate having a centrally located first aperture formed therein, the backing plate adapted to support a drum brake shoe assembly of a drum-in-hat parking and emergency brake; *providing a drum-in-hat adapter formed by subjecting a suitable material to a metal stamp forming process to produce a one piece stamp formed drum-in-hat adapter having an abutment member and a pair of ears formed therewith*, the one piece stamp formed drum-in-hat adapter having a centrally located second aperture and a plurality of smaller mounting apertures formed therein about the centrally located second aperture thereof, *the abutment member protruding from the one piece stamp formed drum-in-hat adapter and including an appropriately shaped profile for directly receiving an associated end of the pair of brake shoes of the drum brake shoe assembly*; and securing the drum brake shoe assembly, the backing plate and the drum-in-hat adapter relative to one another. (Emphasis added). None of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a method for producing a vehicle disc brake assembly as recited in Claim 23. Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 21, along with dependent Claims 22 to 30, are patentable over the cited references.

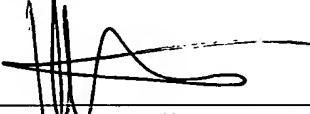
New method Claim 31 includes limitations similar to those recited above in method Claim 23. Thus, it is believed that Claim 31, along with dependent Claims 32 to 38, are patentable over the cited references.

New method Claim 39 is directed to a method for producing a drum-in-hat adapter adapted for use in a vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly comprising the steps of: *subjecting a suitable material to a metal stamping process to produce a one piece stamp formed drum-in-hat adapter having an abutment member and a pair of ears formed integral therewith, the abutment member protruding from the one piece stamp formed drum-in-hat adapter including an appropriately shaped profile adapted to directly receive an associated end of a pair of brake shoes of a drum brake shoe assembly* of a drum-in-hat parking and emergency brake of the drum-in-hat disc brake assembly. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a method for producing a drum-in-hat adapter as recited in Claim 39.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 39, along with dependent Claims 40 to 45, are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner does not believe that the above remarks and amendments place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at (419) 255-5900 to discuss the application prior to the issuance of an action in this case by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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